

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 May 2024 12:48
To: objectionsgfps
Subject: FAO Chief Governance Officer - Complaint and objections regarding the final proposed design for Gilfillan and Wardlaw Place

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Dear Chief Governance Officer for GFPS Objections,

I am writing to object to the final proposed design for the flood prevention scheme specifically for the houses impacted at Wardlaw Place and Gilfillan, Carronshore. While I understand the need to implement flood mitigation measures, the current proposal of constructing a wall along the boundary at the back of our properties is absolutely unacceptable and fails to take into account the severe negative impacts it would have!

The proposed wall cutting across the field behind our homes completely disregards the disruption it will cause to our natural surroundings, cherished outdoor spaces, and the horses and wildlife that inhabit the area. Constructing this wall will drastically alter the aesthetics and ambiance we currently enjoy from our homes, replacing open green space views with a permanent solid structure. Potentially devaluing our properties – one of the reasons we all chose to buy our homes in this area was due to this setting.

It is unacceptable that our homes on Wardlaw Place and Gillfillan appear to be drawing the worst scenario, with other nearby areas not facing such detrimental impairments to their properties. This section of the works requires separate consideration given the direct negative impact it would have on our homes. all on the off chance of flooding over a 200-year period! No other area appears to have direct impact to the back of their properties – all other areas appear to run alongside the river – which could be easily done with ours to with an EMBANKMENT around the perimeter.

This proposal reeks of a blatant cost-cutting exercise by the council and Jacobs, putting financial considerations ahead of an environmentally-friendly and logical solution. The obvious alternative would be to create an embankment around the river itself, which would protect the land and natural habitat while avoiding intruding onto private residential areas. An embankment is really the only sensible eco-friendly choice that preserves the surroundings, REGARDLESS OF COST. Considering there is so much emphasis on environmental targets this reinforces this fact more. How does this design align with Falkirk Councils environmental sustainability targets, Sustainable Development Goals, and more specifically their Community Benefits in Procurement policies? The government is set to release legislation that will provide up to £10,000 in compensation for each resident directly impacted by onshore works in renewables sector. This will be compliant with OFGEM and Community Benefits in Procurement - will you be offering similar compensation packages for each homeowner? Can you detail the overarching community benefits, social, economic and environmental outputs specifically for Wardlaw and Gilfillan residents?

As you will have noted, my concerns extend beyond just the construction phase disruption and this blatant cost cutting exercise. This wall proposal raises many questions about the future state of the land between our properties

and the new structure within our 5-metre boundaries. Will this area be properly landscaped, who pays for the ongoing maintenance of the land in our 5 m boundary? Are we going to be compensated for this work as I indicated above, and what will be done to prevent deterioration and overgrowth? Or will we be left to deal with either impeded access or the escalating eyesore of an unkempt strip of land? Who is paying for this? I certainly cannot afford to maintain something that is unnecessarily inflicted upon me by you, when there has been no issues to date – not failing to mention the potential impact on the value of our houses decrease due to this lack of consideration. All I see are updates in your glossy newsletter coming through the door, but never any real communication with those homeowners that are directly impacted. Homeowners that bought their homes here to enjoy the surroundings. How are you going to sort this issue and compensate? Again, the only reasonable and acceptable solution is an embankment around the field perimeter.

I urge you to seriously reconsider this design at Wardlaw/Gilfillan and explore embankment options that protect against potential flooding while respecting the environment, ecology, horses, land and wildlife habitats rather than sacrificing our natural surroundings through a cost saving exercise and unnecessary invasive wall. Homeowners who bought and paid for their homes should never have to bear the brunt of detrimental impacts for the sake of cost savings, especially when more amenable solutions exist.

I look forward to your detailed response addressing the concerns raised here.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.